

CARING FOR GOD’S WORLD

Practical Steps to becoming an Environmentally Friendly Church for the New Millennium

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HOW TO USE THIS PACK

“Caring for God’s World” has been produced for use by churches, church schools and other church-based projects. The pack is designed to help church councils, governing bodies and management committees carry out a simple environmental audit.

- Present the pack to your church council, governing body or management committee.
- Appoint an individual or sub-committee to oversee the audit process.
- Those delegated to oversee the audit, work through the questionnaire sheets, ticking the black boxes which focus on the current practice of your organisation. Separate sheets can be passed to appropriate people to be filled in by those responsible for a particular area.
- The individual/sub-committee reports back to the main committee making recommendations of practical action that could be taken to improve your organisation’s environmental profile. We recommend that a time-scale is set for implementing these decisions.
- Those overseeing the audit see that the agreed actions are followed through.
- At the end of the time agreed, those overseeing the process work through the same questionnaire sheets, ticking the coloured boxes which focus on the changes that have been put into place through the audit. They can fill out the Evaluation Sheet that can be found at the end of the questionnaire section.
- Present the results of the evaluation to the church council, governing body or management committee.
- You may wish to contact your local newspaper to inform them of the actions that you have taken. Environmental stories are popular with local journalists and it will make good publicity for your organisation.

1. ENERGY

Energy sources such as fossil fuels, coal, oil and natural gas cannot be renewed or replaced and they cause pollution whether used in appliances or for generating electricity

What more can your church/project/school do to lower energy consumption?

Do you use low energy light bulbs? <i>(They cost more initially but last much longer and use one-fifth of the energy)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Doing	<input type="checkbox"/> Not doing	<input type="checkbox"/> Agreed	<input type="checkbox"/> Begun	<input type="checkbox"/> Done
Do you switch off unnecessary lights and use saver switches on e.g. photo-copiers?	<input type="checkbox"/> Doing	<input type="checkbox"/> Not doing	<input type="checkbox"/> Agreed	<input type="checkbox"/> Begun	<input type="checkbox"/> Done
Have you considered installing roof and cavity wall insulation where practical to reduce heat loss? (VAT is reduced on insulation materials.)	<input type="checkbox"/> Doing	<input type="checkbox"/> Not doing	<input type="checkbox"/> Agreed	<input type="checkbox"/> Begun	<input type="checkbox"/> Done
Can you do more to eliminate draughts round doors and windows?	<input type="checkbox"/> Doing	<input type="checkbox"/> Not doing	<input type="checkbox"/> Agreed	<input type="checkbox"/> Begun	<input type="checkbox"/> Done
Do you have the windows cleaned regularly to increase the level of natural light?	<input type="checkbox"/> Doing	<input type="checkbox"/> Not doing	<input type="checkbox"/> Agreed	<input type="checkbox"/> Begun	<input type="checkbox"/> Done
When replacing heating systems do you check for the most energy efficient system for the requirements of the building?	<input type="checkbox"/> Doing	<input type="checkbox"/> Not doing	<input type="checkbox"/> Agreed	<input type="checkbox"/> Begun	<input type="checkbox"/> Done
Can you make more efficient use of your church buildings?					
Is it possible to isolate how much space you use at any one time?	<input type="checkbox"/> Doing	<input type="checkbox"/> Not doing	<input type="checkbox"/> Agreed	<input type="checkbox"/> Begun	<input type="checkbox"/> Done
Are you unnecessarily using large spaces for small meetings?	<input type="checkbox"/> Doing	<input type="checkbox"/> Not doing	<input type="checkbox"/> Agreed	<input type="checkbox"/> Begun	<input type="checkbox"/> Done
Are encouraging your members to adopt these measures in their own homes?	<input type="checkbox"/> Doing	<input type="checkbox"/> Not doing	<input type="checkbox"/> Agreed	<input type="checkbox"/> Begun	<input type="checkbox"/> Done

2. WASTE

We produce over 500 million tonnes of waste annually in the UK, of which 90% goes to landfill sites. The UK Government target is for 25% of current levels of domestic waste to be recycled by the year 2000

Are you doing all you can to reduce waste?

Here are some ideas for your PCC, Governing Body or Management Committee to consider:

(a) PAPER

Saving paper saves trees; the processes employed in its production use non-renewable resources and add to pollution

Do you use recycled paper <i>(The price may be a little higher but if more people use it the price could come down)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Doing	<input type="checkbox"/> Not doing	<input type="checkbox"/> Agreed	<input type="checkbox"/> Begun	<input type="checkbox"/> Done
Do you use brown manila envelopes? <i>(They are cheaper and cause less pollution in production)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Doing	<input type="checkbox"/> Not doing	<input type="checkbox"/> Agreed	<input type="checkbox"/> Begun	<input type="checkbox"/> Done
Do you re-use envelopes whenever it is practical to do so? Labels are available for this purpose	<input type="checkbox"/> Doing	<input type="checkbox"/> Not doing	<input type="checkbox"/> Agreed	<input type="checkbox"/> Begun	<input type="checkbox"/> Done
Do you re-use paper that has been printed on one side only for internal notes, painting or drawing in Sunday School, or notice boards?	<input type="checkbox"/> Doing	<input type="checkbox"/> Not doing	<input type="checkbox"/> Agreed	<input type="checkbox"/> Begun	<input type="checkbox"/> Done
Do you have designated box where such paper can be placed?	<input type="checkbox"/> Doing	<input type="checkbox"/> Not doing	<input type="checkbox"/> Agreed	<input type="checkbox"/> Begun	<input type="checkbox"/> Done
Do you place all waste paper in a bin or sack and arrange for it to be taken to the nearest recycling bank?	<input type="checkbox"/> Doing	<input type="checkbox"/> Not doing	<input type="checkbox"/> Agreed	<input type="checkbox"/> Begun	<input type="checkbox"/> Done
Do you, where possible, avoid purchasing goods with excess packaging?	<input type="checkbox"/> Doing	<input type="checkbox"/> Not doing	<input type="checkbox"/> Agreed	<input type="checkbox"/> Begun	<input type="checkbox"/> Done
Do you encourage your members to adopt these measures in their own homes?	<input type="checkbox"/> Doing	<input type="checkbox"/> Not doing	<input type="checkbox"/> Agreed	<input type="checkbox"/> Begun	<input type="checkbox"/> Done

(b) IN THE KITCHEN/CATERING

Do you designate separate bins or sacks for waste packaging, tins and bottles and arrange for them to be taken to the nearest recycling centre?

Doing Not doing Agreed Begun Done

Do you use re-usable cups or plates rather than disposable plastic or paper ones?

Doing Not doing Agreed Begun Done

Do you encourage your members to adopt these measures in their own homes?

Doing Not doing Agreed Begun Done

(c) WATER

We have generally become more aware of the need to save water in recent years: are you making sure your members are of it?

Doing Not doing Agreed Begun Done

Do you regularly inspect your pipes, radiators and taps and ensure any leaks or drips are attended to promptly?

Doing Not doing Agreed Begun Done

Do you, avoid over-filling urns, kettles etc so as not to waste water?

Doing Not doing Agreed Begun Done

Do you ensure that outside taps e.g. in the churchyard, do not drip or are left running?

Doing Not doing Agreed Begun Done

Have you placed warning notices above taps to remind users not to waste water?

Doing Not doing Agreed Begun Done

Do you use a water 'hippo' in your toilet cistern to reduce water consumption?
(The 'hippo' is a device available from water companies, designed to reduce capacity and thereby to lessen the water used at each flush. Put a brick in the cistern as a temporary alternative)

Doing Not doing Agreed Begun Done

When replacing cisterns or installing new ones have you considered purchasing 'double flush' systems?

Doing Not doing Agreed Begun Done

Have you considered other ways to promote water conservation e.g. collecting rainwater for gardens and recycling water?

Doing Not doing Agreed Begun Done

Have you considered paying water bills by meter rather than by a uniform charge?

Doing Not doing Agreed Begun Done

Do you encourage your members to adopt these measures in their own homes?

Doing Not doing Agreed Begun Done

3. PURCHASING POLICY

We are becoming more aware of potential risks to our health and that of our children by e.g. pesticide residues in food, and the use of bleach and phosphate based detergents that add to the poisoning of our rivers and water-courses. Our attention is also drawn to the issue of fair trade.

Can your church/project/school do more to encourage:

1. better and fairer ways of trading? (FT)

2. a healthier lifestyle? (H)

3. environmentally friendly & energy savings products? (E)

Here are some ideas for your PCC, Governing Body or Management Committee to consider:

a) FOOD AND DRINK

There is an environmental and energy cost in transporting foodstuff over long distances; therefore do you always try to buy local produce? (FT/E)

Doing Not doing Agreed Begun Done

Do you buy organically grown vegetables and ensure any animal based food/products are free range? (H)

Doing Not doing Agreed Begun Done

Do you make provision for vegetarian dishes at your Parish functions? (H)

Doing Not doing Agreed Begun Done

Do you use Traidcraft tea and coffee or Café Direct (FT)

Doing Not doing Agreed Begun Done

Do you examine food labels to find out what additives have been used? (H)

Doing Not doing Agreed Begun Done

Do you ask whether processed food in supermarkets has been genetically modified (H)

Doing Not doing Agreed Begun Done

Do you try to buy British products wherever possible? (E)

Doing Not doing Agreed Begun Done

(Much traffic congestion is caused by lorries carrying overseas food products which used to be grown in Britain)

Do you encourage your members to adopt these measures in their own homes?

Doing Not doing Agreed Begun Done

(b) CLEANING MATERIALS

Do you buy, whenever possible, environmentally-friendly cleaning material? (E)

(Ecover, Ark, Bio-D, are bio-degradable)

Doing Not doing Agreed Begun Done

Do you look for the Eco-label? Below (E)

Doing Not doing Agreed Begun Done

Are you as economical as possible in the use of cleaners and detergents? (E)

Doing Not doing Agreed Begun Done

Are you careful not to buy aerosols with CFC ingredients? (E/H)

Doing Not doing Agreed Begun Done

Do you; encourage your members to adopt these measures in their own homes?

Doing Not doing Agreed Begun Done

(c) TIMBER

Cutting down trees increases the amount of carbon dioxide and is a contributor to global warming. It also increases the risk of soil erosion. Virgin rain-forests are important in maintaining bio-diversity

Do you ask the retailer where the wood comes from? (E)

Doing Not doing Agreed Begun Done

Do you find out where the wood in anything you buy comes from, and only buy wood from sustainable sources? (E)

Doing Not doing Agreed Begun Done

Do you look for the Forest Stewardship Councils Mark? *See below (E)*

Doing Not doing Agreed Begun Done

Do you encourage your members to adopt these measures in their own homes?

Doing Not doing Agreed Begun Done

4. GROUNDS

The church/project/school and its surrounding should be a place of harmony and beauty, where visitors can find peace and hope. It can also be a place which expresses our belief that the earth is the Lord's where we can practise living in harmony with the rest of creation and where the needs of the plants and animals that live there are cared for and in balance. This is true even in the inner city where the presence and abundance of wildlife is increasingly being realised

Have you considered nature conservation in the management of your church/project/school surroundings?

Have you made a survey of the flora and fauna to be found in your church/project/school surroundings? Doing Not doing Agreed Begun Done

(Your local Wildlife Trust may be able to help here – see Resources List page 4)

Do you avoid using chemical pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers? Doing Not doing Agreed Begun Done

How safe are your surroundings? Do you attend promptly to any dangerous trees, broken stonework, glass or other debris that may present a safety hazard? Doing Not doing Agreed Begun Done

Have you made a management plan, sensitive to the needs of users and of wildlife? Doing Not doing Agreed Begun Done

If you have a churchyard:

Have you contacted the LIVING CHURCHYARD PROJECT? Doing Not doing Agreed Begun Done

Have you obtained a copy of the "Churchyard Handbook" and "Wildlife Conservation in Churches" Doing Not doing Agreed Begun Done

(both published by Church House Publishing for the Council for the Care of Churches)

Do you have specific plants in your grounds that will provide food for birds, animals and insects? And have you organized education sessions around them? Doing Not doing Agreed Begun Done

5. ANIMALS

All animals, in their complexity and beauty, must surely concern Christians since they are part of creation; but exploitation is forbidden, and responsible animal welfare encouraged.

Do you include the welfare and proper treatment of animals in your intercessions from time to time? Doing Not doing Agreed Begun Done

Have you, as a church, considered becoming a member of one of the Christian Organisations particularly concerned with the welfare of animals? Doing Not doing Agreed Begun Done

Does your purchasing policy specify that meat; dairy and other animal produce should come from organic farms? Doing Not doing Agreed Begun Done

In the context of animal welfare, human health and the viability of feeding the world in the coming century, have you considered a move towards vegetarianism in your catering policy?
(One way towards this might be to organise a series of tasty vegetarian meals during Lent) Doing Not doing Agreed Begun Done

Have you, as a church, had a general discussion of what the proper relationship should be between humans and animals in the light of the Christian faith? Doing Not doing Agreed Begun Done

Have you discussed the ethics of:

(a) the use of antibiotics in animal feed to promote growth and inhibit the disease inevitable in factory farming? Doing Not doing Agreed Begun Done

(c) genetic engineering of farm animals for increased productivity or to produce pharmaceuticals in their milk, blood or urine? Doing Not doing Agreed Begun Done

Have you raised the issue of the use of animals for experimentation for the commercial production of:

(a) toiletries? Doing Not doing Agreed Begun Done

(b) drug development? Doing Not doing Agreed Begun Done

(c) organs for human transplants? Doing Not doing Agreed Begun Done

6. TRANSPORT

Everybody should think carefully about how they travel, taking into account the environmental impact of different means of transport, as well as consideration of cost, convenience and reliability

Do you encourage:

Walking or cycling rather than the use of the car	<input type="checkbox"/>				
	Doing	Not doing	Agreed	Begun	Done
Use of public transport as often as possible	<input type="checkbox"/>				
	Doing	Not doing	Agreed	Begun	Done
Walking the children to church, school or leisure activities?	<input type="checkbox"/>				
	Doing	Not doing	Agreed	Begun	Done
Sharing cars whenever possible? <i>(e.g. school ferrying, transporting disabled churchgoers, shopping, commuting and for church worship and meetings)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
	Doing	Not doing	Agreed	Begun	Done
For house-groups and other meetings do you try to consider using locations which are accessible by public transport?	<input type="checkbox"/>				
	Doing	Not doing	Agreed	Begun	Done
Do you provide a cycle rack for church use?	<input type="checkbox"/>				
	Doing	Not doing	Agreed	Begun	Done
Do you publicise and observe car-free Sundays and Green Transport Weeks?	<input type="checkbox"/>				
	Doing	Not doing	Agreed	Begun	Done
Where compatible, does your car have a catalytic converter?	<input type="checkbox"/>				
	Doing	Not doing	Agreed	Begun	Done
And use lead-free petrol?	<input type="checkbox"/>				
	Doing	Not doing	Agreed	Begun	Done

7. CONTACT WITH THE WIDER COMMUNITY

Does your church/project/school relate positively to the local community? Buildings and land can be shared for local events, encouraging social participation, reducing barriers of isolation and loneliness and ensuring effective use of community resources. Creating a communal identity helps us to grow together and to become more sensitive to the effects of our actions upon other people and the environment.

Have you considered the possibility of setting up a Recycling Centre in your grounds – if they are suitable?	<input type="checkbox"/>				
	Doing	Not doing	Agreed	Begun	Done
Do you encourage and publicise conservation events in your magazine or church notices	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Have you created access to your buildings for the disabled.	<input type="checkbox"/>				
	Doing	Not doing	Agreed	Begun	Done
Do you encourage schools, youth groups, uniformed organizations and other community groups with which your church/project/school has contact to become more aware of environmental issues?	<input type="checkbox"/>				
	Doing	Not doing	Agreed	Begun	Done

8. INVESTMENTS AND FINANCIAL POLICY

Anyone who has an account with a banks or building society is an investor. Even if you have an account which receives no interest at all, your money is still being lent by the bank or building society to other people. ETHICAL INVESTMENT means choosing investments in a way that reflects your ethical values. The key question we should be asking is, 'Who is the money being lent to and for what purpose?'

Are you aware of your bank's policy towards lending to e.g. repressive regimes, arms dealers, and polluters?	<input type="checkbox"/>				
	Doing	Not doing	Agreed	Begun	Done
Have you invested with Funds that have a positive ethical policy?	<input type="checkbox"/>				
	Doing	Not doing	Agreed	Begun	Done
Have you explored the potential for Local Exchange Trading Systems and/or Credit Unions?	<input type="checkbox"/>				
	Doing	Not doing	Agreed	Begun	Done

9. POLITICAL PRESSURE

As well as taking action ourselves, we need to make our concerns known to those who can shape major political decisions. Such decisions include laws about exhaust emissions, road building and protection of the ozone layer. Governments are sensitive to the concerns of their electorate, and need their support to press for measures to be taken by the international community.

What can your church/project/school do to support campaigns about world poverty, living conditions, environmental issues or human rights?

In its giving, does your Parish support the work of aid and justice development agencies, such as Christian Aid, Tear Fund, CAFOD and Traidcraft?	<input type="checkbox"/>				
	Doing	Not doing	Agreed	Begun	Done
Do you sell Traidcraft goods? E.g. once a month after your main service	<input type="checkbox"/>				
	Doing	Not doing	Agreed	Begun	Done
Do you know who your local MP and your local Councillors are – and have you ever challenged them on environmental issues?	<input type="checkbox"/>				
	Doing	Not doing	Agreed	Begun	Done
Do you pray for them regularly by name?	<input type="checkbox"/>				
	Doing	Not doing	Agreed	Begun	Done
Have you used your local newspaper to highlight environmental issues?	<input type="checkbox"/>				
	Doing	Not doing	Agreed	Begun	Done
Do you support CRISIS or other agencies working among the homeless?	<input type="checkbox"/>				
	Doing	Not doing	Agreed	Begun	Done
Do you support voluntary environmental pressure groups?	<input type="checkbox"/>				
	Doing	Not doing	Agreed	Begun	Done

10. WORSHIP

There are significant Sundays in the church calendar when the worship we use can be suitably adapted to related themes.

How often do we use the opportunity?

(e.g. Car Free Sunday, Creation Sunday, Harvest Festival, Rogation Sunday, St Benedict's Day, St Francis' Day, One World Week, Christian Aid Week)

Do you bring environmental concerns into Acts of Worship, not only at Harvest Rogationtide, Creation Sunday, or the Feast of St Francis of Assisi, but regularly throughout the year?	<input type="checkbox"/>				
	Doing	Not doing	Agreed	Begun	Done
Do you include thanksgiving and care for the creation in your intercessions and spiritual awareness?	<input type="checkbox"/>				
	Doing	Not doing	Agreed	Begun	Done
Do you use appropriate environmental symbols in your worship?	<input type="checkbox"/>				
	Doing	Not doing	Agreed	Begun	Done
Do you ever take the opportunities to conduct worship in the open air?	<input type="checkbox"/>				
	Doing	Not doing	Agreed	Begun	Done
Are you careful to choose hymns that emphasise stewardship, care and the joy of nature (rather than ones that reinforce the idea of human domination over nature)?	<input type="checkbox"/>				
	Doing	Not doing	Agreed	Begun	Done
Do you review the words used in your services and make changes sensitive to the needs of children, women, older people and the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>				
	Doing	Not doing	Agreed	Begun	Done
Do you encourage awareness of the beauty of God's creation both in the city and in the countryside e.g. by arranging local walks, outings, Quiet Days and Retreats?	<input type="checkbox"/>				
	Doing	Not doing	Agreed	Begun	Done
Do you invite local market traders to our Harvest Festival?	<input type="checkbox"/>				
	Doing	Not doing	Agreed	Begun	Done
Do you use the ceremony of Beating the Bounds (traditionally observed on Rogation Sunday) in order to increase the awareness of the area, and its communities and neighbours for which your church has some responsibility?	<input type="checkbox"/>				
	Doing	Not doing	Agreed	Begun	Done

11. INCREASING UNDERSTANDING

Have you, or any members of your church/project/school read any up-to-date articles or books on Christian views of environmental issues?

Doing Not doing Agreed Begun Done

Has anyone been invited to preach in your church on any aspect of the environment and its importance to us and to God?

Doing Not doing Agreed Begun Done

Is there teaching in the Sunday School that highlights environmental concerns?

Doing Not doing Agreed Begun Done

Do house groups discuss issues of justice, peace and the environment, and explore ways in which your church can contribute through prayer, liturgy and action?

Doing Not doing Agreed Begun Done

Do you invite speakers to lead discussion or activities in church groups on such matters as education, health, welfare, transport and economics?

Doing Not doing Agreed Begun Done

Have you considered planning an Advent or Lent Course around environmental issues?

Doing Not doing Agreed Begun Done

12. EVALUATION SHEET

On completion of your audit process please complete and return it to:

Please tick one box for each section of “Caring for God’s World” that you have filled in to show the amount of action that you have taken

Energy	<input type="checkbox"/> No Action	<input type="checkbox"/> Some Action	<input type="checkbox"/> A Great Deal of Action
Waste	<input type="checkbox"/> No Action	<input type="checkbox"/> Some Action	<input type="checkbox"/> A Great Deal of Action
Purchasing Policy	<input type="checkbox"/> No Action	<input type="checkbox"/> Some Action	<input type="checkbox"/> A Great Deal of Action
Grounds	<input type="checkbox"/> No Action	<input type="checkbox"/> Some Action	<input type="checkbox"/> A Great Deal of Action
Animals	<input type="checkbox"/> No Action	<input type="checkbox"/> Some Action	<input type="checkbox"/> A Great Deal of Action
Transport	<input type="checkbox"/> No Action	<input type="checkbox"/> Some Action	<input type="checkbox"/> A Great Deal of Action
Contact with the Wider Community	<input type="checkbox"/> No Action	<input type="checkbox"/> Some Action	<input type="checkbox"/> A Great Deal of Action
Investments & Financial Policy	<input type="checkbox"/> No Action	<input type="checkbox"/> Some Action	<input type="checkbox"/> A Great Deal of Action
Political Pressure	<input type="checkbox"/> No Action	<input type="checkbox"/> Some Action	<input type="checkbox"/> A Great Deal of Action
Worship	<input type="checkbox"/> No Action	<input type="checkbox"/> Some Action	<input type="checkbox"/> A Great Deal of Action
Increasing Understanding	<input type="checkbox"/> No Action	<input type="checkbox"/> Some Action	<input type="checkbox"/> A Great Deal of Action

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name of your church/school/project

Address

Phone number

Name of contact person

Address

Phone number